

Basic Detail Report



other three sides carry a glyphic inscription.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 1/2 x 1 5/8 x 1 1/4 in. (6.4 x 4.1 x 3.2 cm)

Flask

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and slip paint

Description

Ceramic mold-made flasks such as this one have recently been identified as receptacles for powdered tobacco and other medicinal herbs. Long known as poison bottles, residue analysis and decipherment of the glyphic captions on many flasks suggest they were closely associated with God L, the old shaman and personification of tobacco. This rectangular, architectural example has the sloping roof and thatch of a miniature house, and the individual portrayed within may be a ruler or God L himself. The